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September 20, 1999 2:49:41

To; Food and Drug Administration  
Attn: Dockets Management Branch (EEA-305)  
Fax # (301) 594-1831

From James R. and Margie Kiser  
(Please confirm receipt of fax by calling (850) 862-3387)

Re: Dockets number **98N-1230, 96P-0418** and **97P-0197**

The FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting of hens to **manipulate** egg production. This petition should be granted without further delay.

**The FDA** should act immediately to prohibit the practice of forced molting because it has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune systems.

The US Department of Agriculture's Food, Safety and Inspection **Service** has stated: **"FSIS** recognizes that public health concerns are raised by highly stressful forced molting practices. For example, extended **starvation** and water deprivation practices lead to increased shedding of Salmonella enteritis by laying hens subjected to these practices."


Forced molting of laying hens is a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs. **It** is not only cruel, it is **detrimental** to the health of consumers, which FDA is mandated to protect.

It is not enough to place bacteria labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures, because these practices cannot overcome the negative effects of forced molting of laying hens.

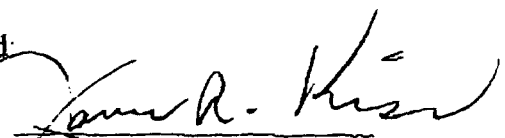
It is within the jurisdiction, and **responsibility** of **FDA to ban farm practices such as forced** molting of laying hens that injure human health.

**Failure to ban forced molting of laying hens constitutes criminal** negligence on the **part** of **FDA**, and can only be seen as capitulation to the greed of the poultry industry.

Signed:

  
Margie B. Kiser

and

  
James R. Kiser

97P-0197

C 716

CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/ C 715

See File Number:

97P-0197/ C 716

96P-0418/ C 715